

## Tucker Resident Chosen as Georgia's New Solar System Ambassador



*Ginny Mauldin-Kinney has had a passion for space science since childhood.*

For Ginny Mauldin-Kinney, who was recently appointed as one of Georgia's solar system ambassadors by NASA's Jet Propulsion Labs (JPL) in Pasadena, CA, the stars are in her blood.

Mauldin-Kinney credits her passion for space science to her uncle, who is a retired NASA engineer. "I was always interested to hear what he was working on next," she said. "The most exciting experience for me was watching the last Apollo mission take off. It was a night launch, and it was spectacular. The fact that we had the technology to send men to the moon astounded me."

For nearly a decade, Mauldin-Kinney has been an avid amateur astronomer. She volunteers as an observatory assistant at Fernbank Science Center and has served on the board of the Atlanta Astronomy Club.

She's also an officer in the astronomy club at Georgia State University, where she's a senior science communications major. She's currently interning as a science writer in the college's Department of University Relations, and she is a former astronomy lab instructor at Georgia State. "My favorite part about astronomy is interacting with people and teaching them about space," she said.

As an ambassador, Mauldin-Kinney will run events such as star parties, lectures, community displays and library appearances. JPL provides ambassadors with special training opportunities such as question-and-answer sessions with leaders in the astronomy field and materials on the JPL-managed spacecraft orbiting Mars and Jupiter.

The 2002 ambassadors are a wonderfully diverse group. The program brings people together who have all kinds of different backgrounds but share an interest in space exploration.

For more information about NASA-JPL's Ambassador program, visit their website at <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/ambassador/front.html>.